

CONCERNING THE RECENT MANOEUVRES OF THE JAPANESE TROOPS
NEAR LUKOUCHIAO, WHERE THEY WERE FREQUENTLY FIRED
UPON BY THE CHINESE TROOPS, THE FOREIGN OFFICE
SPOKESMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION
ON FRIDAY NIGHT, JULY 9, 1937.

Under the provisions of Article IX of the joint Note of the Allied Powers concerning the Boxer Rebellion, and paragraph IV of the Note exchanged between Japan and China concerning the Restoration of Tientsin, the Japanese troops garrisoned in North China have been accustomed to carrying on manoeuvres without being subjected to any restriction as to locality or time. It is provided that with the exception of practice with loaded bullets, no notice need be given for individual cases of manoeuvres. However, as a matter of fact, in order to remove the anxiety of the local inhabitants, notice has been gratuitously served in advance. In the manoeuvre in question, though it was not a practice with loaded guns, notice had been served as usual.

It may be added that other Powers maintaining garrisons in China may, and are, in fact, used to holding similar manoeuvres frequently.

1. The neighbourhood of Lungwangchiao, where troops were illegally fired upon, lies to the northside of Lukouchiao, and having but few houses, is best suited for military manoeuvres. The autumn manoeuvre of last year and many subsequent manoeuvres, large and small, have been held there, so that the place has come to be regarded as if it were a regular practice field for our troops. Moreover, the river beach of the Hungting above and below the Lukouchiao Bridge has been frequently

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used as the grounds for target practice with the high land to the west as a mark.

2. Our troops, with the impending Annual Inspection in view, had been practising continuously day and night in the locality in question.

3. On Wednesday, shortly after 11 o'clock when our troops were fired upon, they had no real bullets with them, save a supply amounting to one cartridge per soldier which was kept by the commanding officer for emergency. There was only one case of bullecartridges for light machine-guns. Of course, the supply was insufficient for returning the fire, and the commander, to meet the situation, immediately sent for reinforcements to the garrison at Fengtai.

These hastened to the scene with real bullets and infantry guns to oppose the Chinese. It was not until 5 o'clock on ~~Th~~^Ursday morning that our troops used solid shots in exchanging fires with the Chinese.

4. It is claimed by the Chinese that our soldiers had entered inside the village wall of Lukouchiao. Our troops are always strictly warned against the occurrence of untoward incidents. Moreover, in this particular village our soldiers have been accustomed not to force their way in order to avoid trouble, because the Chinese sentinels there are in the habit of stopping without reason Japanese soldiers even if they wanted to pass the gate. Finally, in order to approach the gate of the village it is necessary to cross twice a railway track running on an embankment. It would be impossible that a handful of our soldiers should steal inside the gate, and certainly it is absurd that they should court danger purposely by trying to enter the village at night.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI, Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 3 pages and entitled "Concerning the Recent Maneuvers of the Japanese Troops near Lukouchiao, where they were wantonly fired upon by the Chinese Troops, the Foreign Office Spokesman made the following Explanation on Friday night, July 9, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April 1947.

/s/ K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness : /s/ K. Urabe

最近支那兵より不法射撃を受けたる蘆溝橋附近に於ける日本軍隊の演習に因り、外務省スポークスマンは一九三七年七月九日金曜日夜左の如き説明を行つた。

拳匪の亂に因する聯合國共同覚書第十條並に天津還附に因する日支交換覚書第四項の規定により、北支駐屯の日本軍隊は場所、時間について何等制約を受けることなく演習を行ふのが從來の習慣であつた。然るに何を以ては個々の演習について布告をなすを要しないが規定され、あるが、しかし實際問題として地方住民の懸念を除くため、必要と豫め布告が發せられることになつた。問題の演習に於ても、裝彈演習とはなかつたが例の如く布告が發せられた。

ちなみに、支那に守備隊を駐屯せしめ、ある他の諸國も又、風々同様の演習を行ふことが出来又事實之を行つて來たのである。

一、軍隊が不法射撃を受けた龍王廟附近は蘆溝橋の北側に當り、人衆も疎らで、軍隊の演習には最適の地である。昨年の秋季演習及び其後の大

小多くの演習は其處で行はれ、そのため其地は恰も我が軍の正規の演習場の如くに具做されるに至つた。更に又、蘆溝橋より上流下流の永定河の河床は、西方の高地を目標に屢々射的演習場として利用されてゐたのである。

二、我軍は目前に迫つた年度檢閲にそなへて、連日連夜の演習を同地點に於て行つてゐた。

三、我が軍が射撃を受けた水曜日十一時過ぎ頃、我軍は指揮官が萬一のため携行してゐた、各兵につき實包一箇宛の外は、全く實彈を所持してゐなかつた。輕機銃の實包は僅の一箱しかなかつた。之だけでは勿論應戰するにも足らず、指揮官は事態に應ずるため直に鳳台にある守備隊に増援を求めたのである。

守備隊は支那軍を邀つたため實彈及歩兵砲を携へて現地に急行した。本曜日の五時に至つて始めて我が軍は支那軍との交戦に於て實彈を使用したのである。

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支那側に於ては、我々の兵隊が蘆溝橋の部落内に入つたこと主張してゐるが、我が國は常に面倒な事件の起らぬやう嚴に戒められて居り、更に又その特別の部落に於ては、支那軍の歩隊が日本兵と見れば、たゞひ門を通りたいといつても理由なく之を止め入れないのが常であるため、紛争を避けるため、決して無理に通らぬやう習慣づけられてゐたのである。最後に部落の城門に近づくためには堤防に沿つて走る鐵道線路を二度横斷するを要する。少數の我兵が城門内へ忍び入るが如きは不可能であり彼等が殊更に夜半部落に入らうとして自ら危険を招くといふ如きは考へられない事である。

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